



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q64671

Shigeru TANAKA, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/909,988

Group Art Unit: 3724

Confirmation No.: 1372

Examiner: Jason Prone

Filed: July 23, 2001

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OCT 21 2003  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ESTIMATING A LIFE-SPAN OF A CUTTER

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

**MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed September 23, 2003, in which the Examiner set a shortened statutory period for response by one month, making a reply due on or before October 23, 2003.

In the Action, the Examiner has required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of the following:

I. Claims 1, 3, 6-8, 10, 12 and 22-26, drawn to an apparatus and method of estimating a lifetime of a cutter comprising a current detector, classified in class 83, subclass 72; or

II. Claims 4, 5 and 11, drawn to an apparatus and method of estimating a lifetime of a cutter comprising a time detector, classified in class 83, subclass 76.7.

Applicant hereby elects Group 1, drawn to claims 1, 3, 6-8, 10, 12 and 22-26, without traverse. Applicant reserves the right to file divisional applications on the non-elected claims.

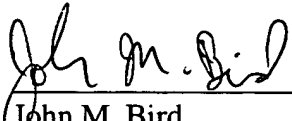
Response to Restriction Requirement  
Serial No. 09/909,988  
Our Ref: Q64671

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes that a complete examination on the merits is now in order. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that a personal or telephone interview would be helpful, she is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: October 20, 2003